

Claims 7-14 and 18 have been rejected under §102(b) as being obvious in view of Stassen et al.

Applicants have amended claims 7 and 12 to include "thereby forming two molecules." Support for this amendment may be found in the specification on page 19, line 16 and examples 14 and 38.

The Stassen et al. reference describes intramolecular disulfide reactions as pointed out on page 4 of the Office Action. The result of intramolecular attack is that a disulfide bond is broken and another one is formed within the same molecule. In contrast, Applicants have disclosed a disulfide intramolecular attack that results in the formation of two molecules. This significant aspect of the invention has been inserted into claims 7 and 12.

Applicants believe that the rejection has been obviated and independent claims 7 and 12 should now be allowable.

Rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. 103:

Claims 7-14 and 18 have been rejected under §103(a) as being obvious when considering Wagner et al. and Lodish et al.

In response to the prior §102 rejection, claims 7 and 12 have been amended which is also believed to obviate the §103 rejection.

The Examiner's objections and rejections are believed to be overcome by the amendments and response to the Office Action. In view of Applicants' amendments and discussion, it is submitted that independent claims 7 and 12 are allowable and therefore dependent claims 8-11 and 13, 14 and 18 which depend either directly or indirectly from the independent claims should be allowable as well. Applicants respectfully request an early notice to such effect.

Respectfully submitted,



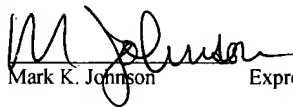
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